

# **Toni Boucher**

## *Biography*

Now in her fifth 2 year term in office, State Representative Toni Boucher was first elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives in November 1996 from the 143rd District, which includes the eastern portion of Norwalk and most of Wilton.

Representative Boucher has assumed leadership roles in both the public and private sectors. Currently an Assistant Minority Leader in the General Assembly, she has earned a reputation as a strong pro-business, education and transportation advocate who gets results. In the legislature, she serves as a member of the legislature's Appropriations, Education and Transportation Committees. She also serves on several Appropriations subcommittees including human services, transportation, and higher education and employment advancement committee. In addition, Representative Boucher serves as the Ranking Member of the Appropriations subcommittee on collective bargaining.

Previously, Rep. Boucher was the Ranking House Republican Member of the General Assembly's Human Services Committee working on issues involving a broad scope of state administered services. She also has served on the Education, Housing, Transportation and Labor and Public Employees Committees. Nationally, she is a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Education Committee and its Education, Labor and Workforce Development and Transportation Committees. She also serves as the state's Team Leader for the partnership of NFWL and DEA in their campaign to reduce drug use by our youth. She has recently received "Legislator of the Year" awards for her leadership role in successful anti-drug legislation from state and national anti- drug organizations such as Drug Free America, Drug Free Schools Coalition and from the state's Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association.

Representative Boucher helped lead the way on traffic relief initiatives for Southwestern Connecticut, especially in regard to rail service. She has also been an outspoken advocate for education at all levels, and in 1998 she authored and helped pass a measure that reduces the mandatory age at which a child must enroll in school from seven to five. She successfully worked for legislation to promote early reading success, preschool education programs for disadvantaged children and to enhance educational accountability. She has also successfully promoted legislation for the elderly such as: providing assisted living services in the home, preventing elder abuse, permitting seniors to work without financial penalties. Toni Boucher was honored to be chosen as a CT delegate to The White Conference on Aging in December 2005.

Representative Boucher remains committed to lowering taxes and reducing burdensome regulation for Connecticut residents and businesses alike. She is known as a major proponent of the small business community, bringing her years of business experience to the legislature.

Representative Boucher has a distinguished record of service to the community with a strong emphasis on education. From January of 1995 to December 1996, she served on

the Connecticut State Board of Education, having been confirmed by both the House and Senate of the Connecticut General Assembly.

The State Board of Education is responsible for establishing Connecticut's Education policy and overseeing a \$1.5 billion annual budget and statewide network of vocational-technical schools. As a member of the Board, Representative Boucher Chaired the committee responsible for developing the Five-year Comprehensive Plan, which is mandated for the General Assembly every five years, and was Chair of the Board's Policy Development Committee.

Representative Boucher also served as a member of the Wilton Board of Selectmen and served as the Town Representative to the Council on Public Facilities and Insurance Committee. The projects in which she was involved included the Wilton Community Center and expansion of two elementary schools and a middle school. She has been active in the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and was a member of its Labor Relations, Municipal Law, Liability and Insurance committees.

Representative Boucher is a former member (1987-94) of the Wilton Board of Education and a former Chair of the board (1991-93) where she was responsible for the development and oversight of an annual budget of \$23 million. She also served on the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and was a member of the National Association of State Boards of Education.

Representative Boucher also serves as a Trustee of the Weir Farm Heritage Trust, a Board Member of the Norwalk Humans Services Committee, a member of Board of Elder House and the Norwalk Youth Symphony. She has been a Member of the Board of Directors of the Wilton Education Foundation, an advisory board member of the New Canaan Nature Center and five school/community based planning teams (Miller, Driscoll, Cider Mill, Middlebrook and Wilton High School). She was a member of the Quality and Integrated Education Local Planning Committee, the Foreign Language Task Force (1978-92), Our Lady of Fatima Fundraising Steering Committee, Geystone Estates Association Board of Directors, Wilton YMCA Expansion Fund, the Board of the Wilton Youth Council's Project 94, 96 and 2000 and the Technology Task Force (1993-present), the Gifted Task Force (1988-90). She has been active in Wilton PTAs for 12 years.

Rep. Boucher was appointed to the Advisory Board of New Canaan Cares. In addition, she was a former Board member of the Wilton League of Women Voters, a member and volunteer for the Wilton Historical Society, a member of the Board of Directors of the Wilton Chapter of the AFS, the Friends of the Wilton Library and the YMCA Expansion Fund.

She is a recipient of the Southwest Area (CT) Commerce and Industry Association's Community Leader Award and the Connecticut Legal Immigrant and Refugee Coalition's 1998 Outstanding Legal Immigrant Award.

Representative Boucher has leadership experience in business as the founder and owner of a small business and in corporate management for two Fortune 500 companies. She CO-founded and has served on the Board of Directors of a marketing design agency in San Diego, California, which specialized in clients working in biogenetic, aerospace and leading edge computer applications. In the private sector, Representative Boucher currently works as the Director of Commonfund Institute-the educational and research arm of Commonfund, a \$36-billion nonprofit fund manager for 1,600 educational, nonprofit and health care institutions started by the Ford Foundation in 1971 .

Fluent in Spanish and Italian, she also has worked as a translator and secondary education language teacher early in her career.

She holds an M.B.A. from the University of Connecticut in international marketing, Series 7 and 63 certification and attended the Commonfund Endowment Management Institute at the Harvard Business School.